

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

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April 6, 2007

Michael Bowen  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bowen:

This letter is written in support of the County of Marin's proposed fish passage project on Kent Canyon Creek, tributary to Redwood Creek, Mt. Tamalpais State Park. Kent Canyon is considered an important tributary to the restoration of coho salmon in the greater Redwood Creek watershed. Coho salmon and steelhead are currently found in the lower reaches of the creek, but their range is limited by the barrier that the existing culvert poses to migrating fish. During a field review of the project by Department of Fish and Game (DFG) biologists, both coho (1+) and steelhead juvenile fish were found in the pool just below the crossing (September 2006).

The existing culvert fails to meet passage criteria for all age classes of juvenile salmon due to the perched outlet and steep slope. For adults, passage was assessed between 3-21 cfs and the FishXing model indicated that the structure only meets adult passage criteria during 28% of migration flows. This creates a complete barrier to adult spawning salmon on 72% of estimated migration flows due to lack of depth and excessive velocities.

The proposed plan to remove the existing culvert and replace it with a natural-bottom, open arch is the best solution for this site considering that the road needs to remain in place and a full bridge replacement would be cost prohibitive. The restored crossing will provide a migratory corridor for coho and steelhead, allowing access to an additional 3,900 feet (3/4 of a mile) of upstream spawning and rearing habitat.

The County of Marin is experienced in implementing these types of fish passage projects, having completed three projects utilizing this same design in the San Geronimo Creek watershed. DFG provided grant funding for two of those projects, and is satisfied with the results.

This project is integrated into a comprehensive effort being made by both National and State Parks to restore the Redwood Creek Watershed and its tributaries located in the Muir Woods National Monument and Mt. Tamalpais State Park. Additionally, implementation of this project will meet the high priority recommendation to "treat coho salmon passage barriers in the Redwood Creek drainage" (Task BM-BO-08) under the *Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon* (DFG 2004).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gail Seymour  
Associate Biologist/Watershed Planner